



PLACER COUNTY
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PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Wednesday, October 17, 2001, 1430 hours
Date/Time of Occurrence Wednesday, October 17, 2001
Nature of Release: Sheriff Names Anti-Terrorism Coordinators, Steps Up
Local Efforts
Location of Release: Placer County

Released by: Sheriff Edward Bonner, (530) 889-7800

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

In an ongoing effort to keep citizens safe and up-to-date with factual information, the Placer County Sheriff's Department has named two anti-terrorism coordinators who are working with law enforcement agencies locally and nationwide.

Captain Rick Armstrong, investigations commander, is heading up all sheriff department efforts involving terrorist activities and threats on the county's western slope. Captain Kent Hawthorne will perform the same duties in the Lake Tahoe area. Additionally, a detective will be reassigned as a full-time criminal intelligence specialist.

Although there is a high probability that Placer County is safe from terrorist acts, the sheriff's office is focusing its efforts on awareness and prevention. The department is now an active member of the Terrorism Early Warning Group and is coordinating with the Sacramento office of the FBI, the California Department of Justice and sheriff departments statewide. Also, a protocol has been established with the Placer County Health Department for proper response to suspicious items and situations.

Since the announcement last Friday that anthrax was detected in New York City, the sheriff's department has responded to about 45 calls of suspicious persons, letters or packages. Citizens are reminded to stay away from any suspicious items and dial 911. In three local instances, citizens transported, smelled or tasted suspect materials before reporting them to law enforcement.

The Placer County Sheriff's Department will be hosting community forums on how to protect yourself from the anthrax threat in the near future. Officers are also available to train large employee groups. To schedule a presentation, call the department at (530) 889-7800.

